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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached document contains an interim report by the International Civilian Mission established in Haiti by the United Nations and the Organization of American States on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti during the period from 9 February to 31 May 1993. It has also been submitted by the Special Envoy to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, who is making it available to the member States of that Organization. It is circulated herewith, for the information of the members of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 47/20 B of 24 November 1992.

ANNEX

Interim report of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti for the period 9 February-31 May 1993

I. INTRODUCTION

The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 47/20 B, on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, which requests the Secretary-General to make regular reports to the General Assembly on the work of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti.

1. The present report provides a brief summary of developments as observed by the International Civilian Mission while carrying out its mandate since mid-February, and particularly since its deployment in the provinces in early March.

2. Accordingly, the report will not review the events that led to the establishment of the Mission, nor will it dwell on the mission of experts or its conclusions and recommendations, which have, for the most part, already been published (A/47/908, annex III).

II. DEPLOYMENT OF THE MISSION

3. An initial group of 40 observers from the Organization of American States (OAS) arrived in Haiti on 14 February 1993 where they joined forces with a team of observers that had been in Port-au-Prince since September 1992. At the same time, a small group of United Nations staff was dispatched to the country to prepare for the arrival of the United Nations component of the Mission.

4. Deployment in the provinces began on 5 March 1993 with the installation of a team at Jérémie, Department of Grande-Anse. By the end of March, the Mission had a team in each of the nine departments. Additional offices will be opened as new observers arrive and complete the training period and as logistical resources increase.

5. As at 24 May 1993, the Mission had 141 international staff members, as follows:

Mission headquarters staff	
Management	2
Administration and operations	20
Human Rights and Media Divisions	13
Observers deployed in the regional teams	86
Observers in training	20

III. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

6. The report of the mission of experts estimated that a reasonable period for the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation in Haiti was three months from the time the departmental offices were opened.

7. The present report does not offer a global or complete evaluation. The Mission has already deployed nearly one third of its anticipated complement of 280 observers in the field, but it has not yet opened all the offices planned and many rural areas have yet to be visited.

8. From the experience gained thus far, the Mission has been able to draw up a list of the types of human rights violations occurring during its deployment on the basis of cases reported to observers. These cases have led to representations and communications to the local or departmental authorities; some of the most serious cases were brought to the attention of the High Command of the Haitian Armed Forces on 22 April, 3 May and 12 May. As yet, the Mission has received no written replies to these communications or to the communications addressed to the departmental commanders. Oral responses to the Mission's requests or communications have been taken into account in this interim report.

9. Under its terms of reference, the Mission "shall devote special attention to respect for the right to life and integrity and security of person, to freedom of expression and to freedom of association".

10. The most serious and numerous human rights violations observed by the Mission since its deployment involved arbitrary detentions, systematic beatings and torture perpetrated by members of the armed forces or persons operating at their instigation or with their tolerance. The Mission has also been informed of cases of arbitrary executions and deaths following torture inflicted while in detention.

11. As indicated below, these violations of the right to life and integrity and security of person are intended primarily to restrict or prohibit the exercise of the freedoms of opinion and expression, assembly and peaceful association. The report gives an account of only the most serious cases brought to the attention of the Mission by its observers. Unfortunately, it provides only a partial picture of the extent to which human rights violations in Haiti are widespread and systematic.

12. The Mission is keenly aware of the fact that human rights violations have direct economic consequences. It has noted in particular that the difficulties in meeting experienced by most farmers' associations and organizations, hamper exchanges of information on the supply of seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. Many of the farmers who have gone underground cannot work their fields and have stopped being productive. Moreover, the ransoms that the poorest people must pay in order to avoid arbitrary arrests, beatings and other corporal punishment or to secure their freedom only impoverishes them further. Some of them have even been forced to surrender the deeds to their land because they lacked the cash to pay their ransoms.

A. Violations of the right to integrity and security of person linked to violations of the right to freedom of expression and association

13. As a number of reports have established, especially those of Professor Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, Independent Expert and subsequently Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights and former Chairman of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and various non-governmental human rights organizations, violations of the right to the integrity and security of person have been linked with violations of the freedoms of expression and association since the coup d'état of 30 September 1991. This pattern is also characteristic of the period under consideration. The Mission noted that, as it was gradually deployed, individuals, organizations and sectors of the population regained confidence and tried to recover rights of which they had been deprived since the coup d'état. The response of the authorities to these attempts has been increased, or at least more selective, repression.

14. The main cases reported by the Mission in its public statements and in its communications to the military authorities illustrate this correlation in the progression of the three phenomena (deployment of the Mission, demand for or assertion of rights, repression). For example:

(a) On 25 February, Mgr. Romélus, Bishop of Jérémie, celebrated a funeral mass for the victims of the Neptune shipwreck in the cathedral of Port-au-Prince. Incidents took place throughout the ceremony and some of those present had to be evacuated under the protection of the Mission and of foreign diplomats. Several persons, however, were arrested. On leaving the cathedral, Mgr. Romélus was attacked and struck by thugs who had broken in as soon as the police had left the scene. Mgr. Romélus's return to Jérémie was followed by an upsurge in tension in that town. For example, on 5 March, Mr. Volvick Figaro, who was accused of having distributed political leaflets on the day of the mass, was arrested and severely beaten in a building of the Haitian customs;

(b) On 29 March, the anniversary of the adoption of the 1987 Constitution, a peaceful demonstration in support of the Constitutional President was violently repressed in Gonaïves, Department of Artibonite. Other similar demonstrations took place in that town on 21 April, on the premises of the Lycée Fabre Geffrard, and on 11 May in the street. These were also accompanied or followed by attacks by soldiers on demonstrators or onlookers;

(c) On 29 March and in the following days, in the Môle Saint Nicolas and Bombardopolis areas of the North-Western Department, supporters of President Aristide, including members of the Organisation Politique Lavalas (OPL), were threatened, arrested and assaulted by soldiers and "attachés" (civilian auxiliaries of the soldiers) who accused them of having distributed leaflets or possessing photographs of the President. One of them, Mr. Manistin Capricien, had to be hospitalized as a result of the torture inflicted on him. Many people, including the Titular mayor, his deputy and several schoolteachers, had to flee the area. Members of the Mission went to the scene and protested to the commander of the Môle Saint Nicolas military district. The latter took responsibility for the violence, citing the ineffectiveness of the judicial machinery and the need to resort to force in order to obtain information from members of the opposition;

(d) In Port-au-Prince, on 23 April, three trade unionists belonging to the Centrale générale des travailleurs (CGT) were arrested after having transmitted a message to Radio Caraïbes calling for a strike on 26 April. The military authorities stated that the trade unionists had used firearms before being arrested, which was denied by eyewitnesses. They were arrested by members of the 30th police company and severely beaten in the company barracks. After several refusals by the police authorities, the Mission was finally given access to the prisoners three days after their arrest. One of them, Mr. Cajuste Lexius, after being examined by an independent doctor at the request of the Mission, had to be hospitalized. On 29 April, the government commissioner ordered the release of two of the three trade unionists. Mr. Cajuste Lexius remained in the military hospital, under arrest, and denied access to his lawyers. On 11 May, a Mission doctor was able to confirm the seriousness of his injuries: multiple contusions and wounds and kidney damage. On 21 May, Mr. Cajuste Lexius was freed and was able to leave the military hospital;

(e) On 28 April, at Hinche, Central Department, on the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP), members of that organization put up posters in support of President Aristide on the town walls. During the night of 28-29 April, towards 2 a.m., one of the members of the organization, Mr. Hilton Etienne, was arrested at home, without a warrant, by a gang led by soldiers. At least three other alleged members of the MPP were arrested during the same night. All were accused by the soldiers before being released of having been found associating with criminals in order to disturb public order. Brutally struck during his arrest and detention, Mr. Hilton Etienne's left wrist was fractured and he suffered multiple contusions;

(f) During the night of 7 May, Mr. Andieu Elie, a member of MPP, was arrested at home, in circumstances similar to those of Mr. Hilton Etienne's arrest, by men claiming to be Mission observers before uttering slogans hostile to OAS, MPP and President Aristide. He was beaten and left for dead beside the road.

15. The preceding cases offer some examples of the attempts to claim and to exercise political and trade union rights guaranteed by the Haitian Constitution and by the international treaties to which Haiti is a party. They also illustrate the violent reactions of the armed forces when they are confronted with such claims.

16. In many other cases throughout the country, persons have been harassed and often beaten simply for having written or uttered slogans, for having in their possession photographs of President Aristide, or for listening to foreign radio broadcasts. The Mission was also able to establish that fugitives who had decided to return to their homes after the installation of observers in their areas continued to be threatened and intimidated. In some areas, most of them had to resume clandestine life as a result of the renewal of the repression (for example, in the Plateau central region).

Attacks on freedom of the press

17. Many journalists have been also roughed up or detained or have received threats designed to prevent them freely going about their work.

18. Ms. Arlette Josuée, the local correspondent for Voice of America, was arrested and slapped in the face as she was leaving the funeral mass held at the cathedral in Port-au-Prince on 25 February.

19. Four provincial correspondents for Radio Tropique FM were subjected to harassment and had to leave their posts:

(a) On 24 and 25 March, soldiers appeared at the residence of Mr. Johnson Legrand in Gonaïves, Department of Artibonite, to arrest him. Mr. Legrand has since gone into hiding;

(b) On 30 March, Mr. Masner Beauplan, the correspondent in Hinche, Central Department, was arrested by soldiers for being in possession of a publication by the Group de réflexion et d'action pour la liberté de la presse. He was held in the town's barracks until the following day;

(c) On 10 April, Mr. Ernst Occéant was arrested and severely beaten by the military in Saint-Marc, Department of Artibonite, and accused of distributing pamphlets supporting President Aristide;

(d) In the first week of May Mr. Alexis Montfort, the only radio correspondent in Port-de-Paix, North-Western Department, was threatened by the military department commander and forced to leave the district.

20. Other radio journalists (in the Artibonite valley, Fort-Liberté and Miragoâne) have been the subject of acts of intimidation, threats or detention by elements of the armed forces or persons acting on their orders. The authorities are pursuing a strategy aimed at silencing the provincial media. Several regions are now virtually without press or radio.

21. Twenty months after the coup d'état and three months after the installation of the International Civilian Mission, no real improvement is evident in terms of freedom of expression in this sector. Many radio stations which had to interrupt their programming after the coup d'état are still closed down, while others have stopped or have restricted the broadcasting of news. A large number of journalists have had to stop working, and several have been forced to live in hiding. Vendors of Libète, the pro-Aristide creole newspaper, are regularly subjected to harassment, especially in the provinces.

B. Deaths in detention, disappearances and arbitrary executions

22. The Mission has also received information concerning cases of deaths resulting from torture inflicted during detention and of cases of arbitrary execution and enforced disappearance, implicating public service agents or persons acting at their instigation. Some of these cases have been clearly confirmed, while others are still being investigated by the Mission.

Deaths in detention

23. On 15 April 1993, Mr. Oriol Charpentier was arrested at Thiotte, South-Eastern Department, accused of stealing from his employer's house and acquitted for lack of evidence by the magistrate, who apparently told him to go to the military authorities to report his release. Some hours later the magistrate was called to the barracks to certify the death of Oriol Charpentier. The military authorities, the doctor who signed the death certificate and the prisoners who were present when the events occurred gave contradictory accounts of the circumstances and causes of death. Oriol Charpentier was hurriedly buried by the military, who refused to allow the body to be returned to the family.

24. On 3 May, the judge at Terrier Rouge, North-Eastern Department, certified the death in prison of Georges ("Andvil") Mathias and attributed his death to a chronic ailment. However, according to his family, Mr. Mathias was in good health before he was arrested on 23 April and accused of stealing cattle. He would appear to have been brutally hit by the "attaché" who arrested him. Georges Mathias was taken away and held initially at Trou du Nord and was only handed over to the local tribunal four days after his arrest. The judge at Trou du Nord declared himself incompetent to hear the case, and the prisoner was transferred to Terrier Rouge, where he appeared before the deputy magistrate on 29 April. The deputy magistrate then declared himself incompetent to hear the case and apparently ordered that Georges Mathias, who was unable to stand, be taken to Fort-Liberté. This was not done.

Enforced disappearances

25. On the basis of the information that has reached it since 9 February, the Mission is not in a position to state that enforced disappearance constitutes a systematic practice which is being conducted in Haiti on a massive scale. However, the Mission remains mindful of several instances of disappearances that took place before it arrived and is looking into information regarding recent cases.

26. The Mission fears that one of these cases - that of Mr. Joseph Winy Brutus - is evidence of the selective practice of forced disappearance to which several opposition political militants have fallen victim since the coup d'état. Mr. Brutus is one of the leaders of the Parti national démocratique progressiste d'Haïti (PNDPH), which forms part of the Front national pour le changement et la démocratie (FNCD). He left his home on the afternoon of Wednesday, 5 May, and was last seen in rue Toussaint-Louverture, quartier Delmas 33, Port-au-Prince. His relatives made inquiries at the capital's prisons and mortuary. These attempts to find him proved vain.

27. Mission representatives expressed concern about the fate of Mr. Brutus to the High Command, one of whose members mentioned a possible link with drug trafficking but failed to provide any proof. The Mission is still investigating his disappearance and does not rule out the possibility that it was carried out at the instigation of, or by, agents of the public authorities with the purpose of intimidating PNDPH and the other opposition parties.

Arbitrary executions

28. The Mission is particularly concerned about the increase during May, as compared with the previous two months, in acts of violence carried out by the zenglendos or other criminal groups acting with impunity and apparently under the cover, or with the express or tacit consent, of the de facto authorities. The term zenglendos denotes criminals who are recruited from groups ranging from the marginal social strata found in working-class districts to police officers themselves, usually acting at night, in civilian clothes and with official weapons. This phenomenon, which is particularly evident in Port-au-Prince, is aimed, in some cases at least, at intimidating sections of the democratic opposition, and goes hand in hand with the upsurge in arbitrary executions for political reasons.

29. In the working-class districts, zenglendos are creating a climate of general fear, for their victims are not necessarily political militants or sympathizers. One case will serve as an example:

> At about 12.30 a.m. on 10 May, four men dressed in civilian clothes and wearing masks entered the home of Mrs. Illia Davilma, wife of Mr. Joseph Lucien, in the working-class district of Cité Soleil. They filled a suitcase with a number of small objects. Confronted with a demand to hand over her savings, Mrs. Davilma was able to give them only a few gourdes. The zenglendos then knocked her to the ground in front of her six children, whom they struck.

30. The existence of paramilitary groups or bands of delinquents which are tolerated by the army has also been reported in certain provincial regions. The Mission's team in the North-Eastern Department is looking into a case in which one of these groups might be implicated. It concerns the murder of Mrs. Souffran, a woman of 65 residing in the village of St. Antoine, 5e section Moka Neuf of the commune of Sainte Suzanne. On Friday, 14 May, Mrs. Souffran was seen for the last time, returning home from the Grosse Roche market. Her family spent the weekend making inquiries as to her whereabouts. On Sunday, 16 May, they found her basket containing her personal belongings and a sum of money. It was not until the following day, Monday, 17 May, that they discovered the victim's body, hideously mutilated.

31. Mrs. Souffran was an active member of a grass-roots church group belonging to the "Ti Legliz movement", which is close to President Aristide. Since the coup d'état this group has received repeated threats from local "attachés", who are army auxiliaries. In recent months, an armed group calling itself Zantray and recruiting from among these "attachés" has been sowing terror in the region.

32. On Sunday, 23 May 1993, three bodies were discovered near the beach at Kyona on a footpath known as the route de Montage, in the Western Department. According to information gathered by the Mission, the three victims had been taken by armed men in a white pick-up truck. Two of the victims had their arms bound behind their backs with electric cable. The killers had been able to get past a police block at the Freycinau outpost and commit their crime undisturbed. At the police outpost they apparently told the officers they were carrying "coal for the commander of l'Arcahaie". Two of the persons picked up along the road at Saint Marc, Artibonite Department, had witnessed the triple murder and

managed to get away. The section head at Montrouis went to the scene of the crime and confirmed to the Mission that the three corpses each had two bullet holes in the neck.

33. In other cases, the witnesses concur in describing the perpetrators of arbitrary executions as agents of the State:

(a) On 17 May, at about 1 a.m. at Pétion-Ville, four men in police uniform burst into the home of Mr. Frédéric Dabon who, together with his brother-in-law, Mr. Abel Sarasin, was considered to be a supporter of President Aristide. They demanded to see Mr. Dabon. Since he was not at home, they turned on Mr. Sarasin, a friend who had stopped by, and killed him. They then demanded 750 Haitian dollars from Mrs. Afia Dabon before fleeing;

(b) At dawn on Tuesday, 25 May 1993, after a band of zenglendos had spread terror for several hours in the upper part of rue Sapotis, impasse Martin Luther King in the Carrefour district (Port-au-Prince), two people were killed in cold blood by "armed individuals in blue uniforms". According to testimony gathered by observers from the International Civilian Mission, who made inquiries among families, neighbours and the military and judicial authorities, Janvier Lavaud, a "tap-tap" (collective transport vehicle) driver, aged 26 years, was killed leaving his home, as he was preparing to join the vigilance brigade made up of neighbours who had been roused by the incursions of the zenglendos. The second victim, Jean-Patrick Pierre-Louis, a baker aged 23 years, was killed on his way to work as he approached the spot where Janvier Lavaud's body lay. An officer from the armed forces admitted that the two individuals had been killed by military police officers from the Lamentin barracks. According to that officer, Mr. Lavaud and Mr. Pierre-Louis were "associates" who took part in the activities of the zenglendos;

(c) On 27 May 1993, Mr. Bertone Alexis, a teacher at the A. Jean Jacques secondary school, situated at 52 bis rue Saint Gérard, at Carrefour Feuilles, Port-au-Prince, aged 40, father of eight, was shot dead as he was leaving his classroom. A few moments earlier several uniformed policemen had burst into that street, near the church of Saint Gérard, shooting indiscriminately at passers-by. The teacher was hit in the back by the bullets. The Mission is continuing to investigate the incident.

C. Other violations of the right to physical integrity and individual security

34. On 10 April, Bélizaire Wasmy, a teacher at Champain, North-Eastern Department, was challenged by one of the attachés who was at the outpost in this district. The teacher did not respond to the provocations of this individual, who accused him publicly of being a supporter of the Lavalas movement (supporters of President Aristide). He was pursued by three individuals, including the attaché, who beat him up on the highway before transferring him to the Cap-Haïtien barracks, from which he was released after his family had been forced to pay 500 Haitian dollars to his jailers. The local doctor noted multiple fractures. Mr. Wasmy, since his release without charges, continues to be intimidated by the civilians referred to above.

35. On 16 April, at Jérémie, Department of Grande-Anse, a soldier fired at Joseph Pierre Daguy, a "tap-tap" driver, wounding him in the leg. The soldier had previously aimed his weapon at Mr. Daguy's temple and was preparing to shoot when one of his superiors intervened. The victim was hospitalized for three weeks. The local military authorities claim to have taken disciplinary measures against the officer concerned, but the Mission has been unable to verify either the procedure, or the type of penalties applied.

36. On 5 May, the Dessien family residence, situated in the Cité Soleil district, Port-au-Prince, was surrounded by armed men in the middle of the night. Accusing Mr. Jules Dessien of having been active in candidate Aristide's presidential campaign, the men beat the inhabitants, including a three-year-old child, with the butts of their revolvers. According to testimony given by neighbours, several of the assailants were wearing olive green uniform. The men then fled, taking some household goods and 800 Haitian dollars.

37. On three occasions (the night of 8-9 May, 10 May, 11 May), "thieves" visited a shop and a property belonging to Mr. Antoine Izméry, a businessman who financed President Aristide's electoral campaign, and also a house belonging to a brother of Mr. Izméry. These "visitors" took very few things and left slogans that were hostile to President Aristide. Mr. Izméry had already been subjected to similar acts of intimidation after the coup d'état on 30 September 1991, and one of his brothers was murdered in May 1992.

IV. IMPACT OF THE MISSION, REACTIONS OF THE DE FACTO AUTHORITIES

38. At first (from 14 February to mid-April 1993), the Mission was above all watched - by the authorities, by the democratic sectors and by the population in general, particularly at Port-au-Prince. In the case of the armed forces, this attitude was accompanied by an obvious reserve, or even open hostility, and behaviour or actions designed to take the measure of the Mission. The first and one of the most spectacular tests (the events at the cathedral at Port-au-Prince) took place only 11 days after the arrival of the first observers from the Mission. Other incidents, intimidation attempts, attempts to hamper the work of the observers, and violations of the terms of reference on the part of the military authorities, marked the establishment of the Mission in the nine departments.

A. Positive effects

39. Nevertheless, although this deployment did not lead to any reprieve in the repression, it did have some positive effects on the human rights situation, at least in some regions and at the initial stage. This was reflected in:

(a) Fewer arbitrary arrests. One example: at Cayes, Southern Department, the commander of the military sub-district and supervisor of the police was forbidden, by his superior, to sign arrest warrants, which he is in no way authorized to do under Haitian law;

(b) The prompt release, after the intervention of observers from the Mission, of persons who had been arbitrarily arrested;

(c) The release of persons who had been illegally detained for a long period of time (after visits or intervention by observers at the national penitentiary, the Gonaïves prison, or the prison at Cap Haïtien);

(d) In some cases, prisoners were brought before the courts within the time-limits and in accordance with the procedures laid down by law;

(e) A decline in the number of beatings (at Jacmel, South-Eastern Department, there was a "temporary respite from beatings");

(f) Return home of certain persons who had been living in hiding before the Mission's arrival;

(g) Lowering of local tensions in certain areas (for example, at Môle Saint Nicolas) and increased feeling of security following the establishment of the Mission in these districts;

(h) Efforts to exercise the rights and freedoms of association and expression (for example: frequent demonstrations at Gonaïves and meetings of popular organizations, such as the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) at Hinche, following several months of inactivity).

B. Change in attitude on the part of the Haitian armed forces

40. From mid-April onwards, following the deadlock in the political negotiations, it seemed clear that the armed forces, which had previously been testing the Mission, were now attempting to neutralize it.

41. They began to adapt their repressive measures to the new situation created by the deployment of observers. For example, the military authorities increasingly cited in flagrante delicto to justify arbitrary arrests. In addition, they increasingly assigned to the "attachés" and other armed civilians certain dirty tasks such as beatings. Repression was stepped up in several towns, particularly Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, and Hinche, where those who had taken advantage of the Mission's presence to return home were forced to go back into hiding following renewed threats and intimidation.

42. Furthermore, after their initial surprise at the Mission's determination to visit the prisons, it seems that the military authorities have given the order that the observers should be denied access, or at any rate immediate access, to the prisons, even in cases where human rights violations have been reported. A prime example of this practice is the difficulty the Mission had in getting authorization to visit the trade unionist, Cajuste Lexius, who was being held at the headquarters of the Anti-Gang.

43. At the same time, acts of intimidation, and even provocation, towards the Mission or persons in contact with it began to be more frequent, more insistent and more systematic. Some examples include:

(a) In Jérémie (Department of Grande-Anse):

(i) Soldiers chanted hostile slogans while jogging past the Mission's premises;

(ii) Threats and accusations made by an officer against legal assistants for having contact with the Mission; and, more seriously,

(iii) A beggar was beaten, stoned and left for dead in the vicinity of the Mission's local office. The following day, graffiti hostile to the Mission appeared on several walls in the town;

(b) In Hinche (Central Department):

(i) Offensive behaviour and chanting directed against the Mission. The arrest of Mr. Hilton Etienne, which was in itself an act of intimidation (see above), was also the occasion for an incident whereby the local military authorities were seeking both to impress their subordinates and to intimidate the international observers;

(ii) A gang of armed civilians gathered in front of the home of a female employee of the Mission, threatening to beat her and saying that their next victim would be one of the observers, whose name they announced publicly;

(c) In Gonaïves (Department of Artibonite):

(i) Demonstrators and passers-by were beaten in the presence of Mission observers;

(ii) Soldiers burst into a private residence where observers were talking with the occupants;

(iii) Graffiti hostile to the Mission.

C. Replies from the Haitian armed forces to communications submitted by the Mission

44. Some of the replies from the military authorities to requests or communications from the Mission concerning human rights violations - and in some cases their failure to reply - can also be attributed to the change in attitude on the part of the armed forces.

45. Since the beginning of May, the Mission has noticed a hardening in the attitude of departmental commanders towards observers. This is a consequence of communications issued by the Mission, including letters to departmental military authorities and General Headquarters, and a press release of 5 May implicating soldiers in human rights violations. During a meeting on 12 May between a delegation from the Mission and the Army High Command, the latter strongly resisted repeated requests for information concerning any punishment meted out to members of the armed forces responsible for the above violations. Nevertheless:

(a) Members of the High Command did say that one of the soldiers involved in the torture of three CGT trade unionists, including Mr. Cajuste Lexius, had been placed under arrest and demoted, and that the case was being investigated;

(b) After the Mission drew the High Command's attention during the same meeting to the case of a farmer from a remote region of the Departement du Sud-Est who had been beaten up while being arrested, in the presence of international observers, General Cédras reportedly summoned to Port-au-Prince a local commander from the area where the incident took place;

(c) According to reports, the commander of Môle Saint Nicolas (the same officer who had admitted responsibility for violations in his area, citing as justification the inadequacy of the legal system and the need to use force to obtain information) was summoned to Port-de-Paix, capital of the North-Western Department, and a military inquiry was opened. Other soldiers from the same region were apparently transferred.

46. However, there is every reason to fear that these measures, which in any case could hardly be described as punishments, will not be followed up and that the transfers, purportedly carried out in order to satisfy complaints, will only serve to shift the problem elsewhere.

V. CONCLUSIONS

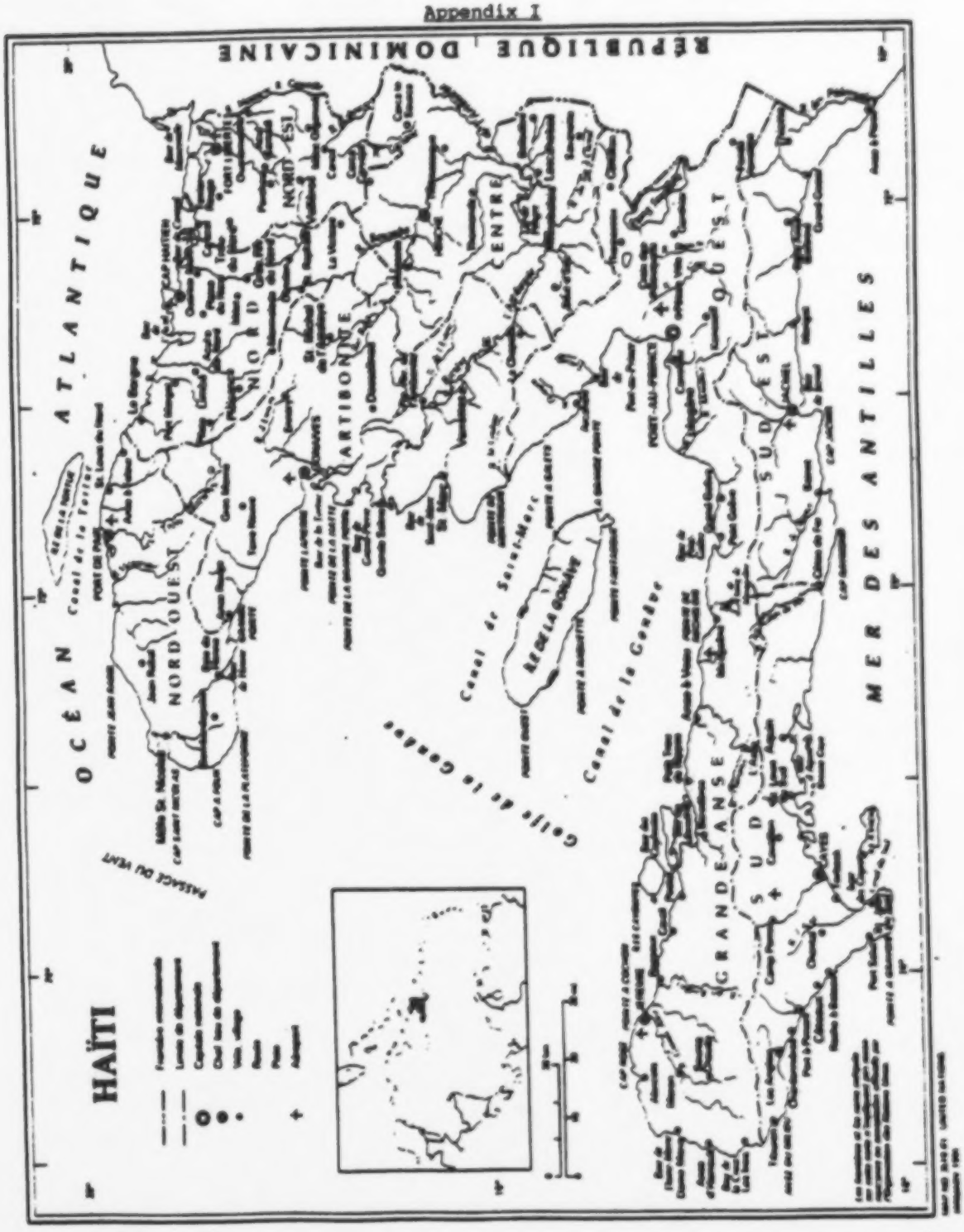
47. Despite the difficult material and logistic conditions, the International Civilian Mission was deployed throughout the country relatively swiftly. Within six weeks of the arrival of the first observers, teams had been established in each of the nine departments.

48. Police officers and their many auxiliaries were taken somewhat by surprise, but have not abandoned their repressive practices. Some democratic elements of the population have tried to take advantage of the Mission's presence to establish a measure of freedom of expression and association.

49. Both sides have taken stock of the new situation and, with political negotiations deadlocked, the armed forces have adopted a more aggressive attitude in an effort to prevent or reduce contact between the Mission and the population.

50. Against this difficult background, the support of all OAS and United Nations Members for the International Civilian Mission to Haiti is more necessary than ever.

Appendix I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Canal de Saint-Marc
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Appendix II

Locations where International Civilian Mission is deployed as at 25 May 1993

Headquarters: Pétion-Ville

Local (Departmental) offices (in order of establishment):

- Port-au-Prince (Western Department)
- Jérémie (Department of Grande-Anse)
- Les Cayes (Southern Department)
- Jacmel (South-Eastern Department)
- Hinche (Central Department)
- Cap Haïtien (Northern Department)
- Fort-Liberté (North-Eastern Department)
- Gonaïves (Department of Artibonite)
- Port-de-Paix (North-Western Department)

District offices:

- Môle Saint Nicolas (North-Western Department)
- Trou du Nord (North-Eastern Department)

Proposed district offices:

- Saint-Marc (Department of Artibonite)
- Mirebalais (Central Department)
- Carrefour (Port-au-Prince, Western Department)
- Cité-Soleil (Port-au-Prince, Western Department)
- Petit-Goâve (Western Department)
- Jean-Rabel (North-Western Department)

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Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 22

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Note by the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

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(a) The heading of document A/47/960 should read as above.

(b) The text of the paragraph should read as follows:

The attached document contains an interim report by the International Civilian Mission established in Haiti by the United Nations and the Organization of American States on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti during the period from 9 February to 31 May 1993. The Special Envoy has submitted it simultaneously to me and to the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, who is making it available to the member States of that organization. It is circulated herewith, for the information of the members of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Assembly resolution 47/20 B of 24 November 1992.

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